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THE RELATION OF THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES TO THE NATIONAL LIFE.—A report of Hon. H. A. L. Fisher to the Educational Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science on the relation of the English universities to the national life is discussed in the London *Times's* Educational Supplement:

"Research is essential to university as well as to national life, and to-day the spirit of research was never more active in academic as well as in industrial fields. Research to-day, in, at any rate, science, means the expenditure of money and it is that fact which has given the government a foothold, somewhat insecure, at Oxford and Cambridge. Mr. Fisher asks that each university in the country should limit itself to some special field of research: 'Every university should not attempt to do everything.' It is feared lest there should be overlapping and waste of energy as well as money. No doubt there may with advantage be understandings between universities of an informal kind as to particular branches of special research carried on. But there the division would be voluntary and natural, not a division enforced from without. It would be intolerable if the Board of Education were to come forward to one university and say, 'We can only give you a grant if you agree to limit your activity to this field or that,' and so go the round of the universities. We trust that this point will be kept in view at all the universities."